

Guwahati during February, 2007. Of these, 80 medals (30 Gold; 22 Silver & 28 Bronze) were won in 13 sports disciplines by 153 players/teams members belonging to Haryana State.

Short supply of coal

***415. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether there is short supply of coal and the coal mines are not able to meet the requirements of the power plants;
- (b) if so, the demands received and the supplies made during each of the last two years to power plants;
- (c) the reasons for the short supply, if any; and
- (d) the measures taken to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Coal companies have sufficient coal stock to meet the assessed demand of power plants. Off-take by power utilities from Coal India Limited sources during 2005-06 was as per the Annual Action Plan targets. However, off take by power utilities from Coal India Limited sources during 2006-07 was less than the Annual Action Plan target by about 4% on account of non-materialisation of demand, infrastructural bottlenecks, unloading constraints, transportation constraints and reluctance in building up normative level stocks by power plants at their end. Power utilities have imported only about 10 Million tonnes of coal during 2006-07 as against the target of 20 Million tonnes.

Sethusamudram project endangering link between India and Sri Lanka

**†416. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY:
SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL:**

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that existence of remains of Sri Ram Setu,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

constructed in ancient times between India and Sri Lanka, have been verified by the satellites of NASA;

(b) whether it is also a fact that consequent upon construction of "Sethusamudram Project", which links India with Sri Lanka, existence of 30 km. long Sri Ram Setu of ancient times would be lost and would become a matter of history; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) There is no scientific evidence regarding the existence of any ancient man-made structure in the proposed Sethusamudram Ship Channel alignment.

(b) Does not arise.

Performance of serving bureaucrats

***417. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to get the performance of its serving bureaucrats evaluated by the faculty of foreign institutes like MIT, Harvard, Princeton and Yale;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the serving IAS personnel would also undergo refresher courses in such universities to finetune their skills in governance and decision making?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (c) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

VPTs under Bharat Nirman Programme

†418. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Village Public Telephones (VPTs) are being installed in villages under Bharat Nirman Programme;

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